



Aruba officially opens their renovated and updated Emergency Room facility

On Friday, August 11, the staff and management of the Horacio Oduber Hospital officially unveiled the results of three months of intensive work as His Excellency, Governor Fredis Rufenjol, literally unveiled the plaque commemorating the opening of the new Eerst Hulp. He was assisted by Director of the Hospital, Dr. Percy Ho-Kang-You in opening the electronic doors for the first time, with a special swipe card provided for the occasion.

Prior to the official opening, a brief explanation of the changes that have increased the department physically by 200% was given by Junior Tromp, Technical Director and Chief Engineer of the hospital. Ruben Croes, Head of the Emergency Room personally conducted a tour for the governor of the various new amenities, which include separate rooms for Cardio, Trauma, applying casts, and a cheerful “Children’s Room” with toys and TV to keep them entertained, and calm their fears.

The following Sunday, the public was welcomed for an “Open Day” to tour the facilities and receive information that will help them to understand the new grading system of priority called “Triage.” Employed by most emergency rooms around the world, incoming patients are placed on a color code level of urgency, with the worst traumas getting first attention. Bob Harms, Director of Public Relations for the hospital revealed that Aruba’s code red is primarily deployed for car accident and heart patients. When the public understands that an emergency room visit is not always necessary, or that a minor ailment will have to wait for the treatment of a patient whose life is threatened, it will ease the job of the personnel greatly. He also stated that the emergency room is treating 65,000 patients per year, and the enlargement and improvement was essential.

Mr. Harms also reported a great turnout by the public during Open Day at the hospital. Spectators were treated to a simulated emergency response with a demonstration of the new heli-pad located adjacent to the hospital. The sense of drama as doctors and nurses rushed a patient to a trauma room, where the patient flatlined, requiring the use of electric paddles to stimulate that heart was an exciting display worthy of “ER.” Fortunately, the doctor did not have to “call the time” and the patient survived, to great applause. The grand opening provided not only an informative event, but also fun day for the Aruban people!